



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Biography

Lieutenant General Joe N. Ballard **Chief, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

Lieutenant General Joe N. Ballard became the 49th Chief of Engineers and Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Oct. 1, 1996.

Army Corps of Engineers missions include construction and environmental restoration on military installations, and the Army's vast civil works program. The Corps also assists in recovery from natural disasters, regulates work in the nation's waterways and wetlands, conducts research and development, serves as the Army and Air Force real estate agent, and provides engineering services to 30 other Federal agencies. The Chief of Engineers is the senior staff engineer for the Army.

Lt. Gen. Ballard graduated from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, La., in 1965 with a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers. He later earned his master's degree in Engineering Management from the University of Missouri. He is a graduate of the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Army Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College. He is a registered professional engineer in civil engineering.

Prior to his selection as Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Ballard served as the Chief of Staff, United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, Va., since July 1995.

Lt. Gen. Ballard has also held a wide variety of command and staff positions, including Commanding General of the U.S. Army Engineer Center and Fort Leonard Wood. Prior to that, he was Special Assistant to the Director of Management for the Total Army Basing Study, Office of the Chief of Staff, Washington, D.C.; Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Engineer Center and Fort Leonard Wood/Assistant Commandant, U.S. Army Engineer School; Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer, Headquarters U.S. Army Europe; Commander, 18th Engineer Brigade in Karlsruhe, Germany; Chief, Assignments Branch, Colonels Division, U.S. Army Personnel Command; and Commander, 82nd Engineer Battalion, 7th Engineer Brigade in Bamberg, Germany. In addition to numerous other assignments, Lt. Gen. Ballard served two tours in Vietnam where he served as a platoon leader in the 84th Engineer Battalion, and later, after attending the Engineer Officer Advanced Course, he served as Commander, Company C, 864th Engineer Battalion and then Chief, Lines of Communications Section Operations, 18th Engineer Brigade.

Lt. Gen. Ballard's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (three awards), Bronze Star Medal (two awards), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Army Commendation Medal (two awards), and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Lt. Gen. Ballard is a native of Oakdale, La. He is married to the former Tessie LaRose of New Orleans, La., and they are the parents of three daughters: Mrs. Dawn Stewart, Mrs. Taras Copeland, and Mrs. Makyba Frazer.